

# THE KEYNOTE

North American Version

**FISTS CW Club**



**Accuracy Transcends Speed**

**Courtesy At All Times**

## HOW DO I...

**...ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES?** Irene WO8E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers, 200 for \$5; Blue enamel/gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Cloth logo patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50 Rubber stamps with the FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5. "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .75 FISTS Logo mugs are currently out of stock. These prices DO include first class postage. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FISTS CW CLUB.

**...GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST?** The list is printed in the KeyNote twice a year and is also on the Web page. A printed updated list may be obtained by sending \$1 (to defray costs- it's 14 pages long) to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Corrections to Ed at n7cfa@kalama.com

**...GET ON THE FISTS ON-LINE Email LIST?** Send your Email address with your name/call/ FISTS number to blafont@tir.com

**...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO?** Stan K4UK, with the assistance of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club handles FISTS QSL bureau. Sort your outgoing FISTS cards by call area, and mail to K4UK, 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA 24121. To receive cards you may have waiting at the bureau, send K4UK a few SASEs. QSLs will NOT be sent to you unless you have sent in an SASE or made arrangements with Stan. His Email is stanreas@rev.net

**...RENEW MY KEYNOTE SUBSCRIPTION?** Send a check/M.O. made out to FISTS for \$15/year to Nancy WZ8C POBox 47 Hadley MI 48440. *What's the Family Plan?* All CW folks at the same QTH can belong to FISTS for one subscription fee of \$15. You will each have your own FISTS number, but only one Keynote will be mailed per address. Student rate = \$10 if not in a Family Plan.

**...SPONSOR A DX FISTS?** DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from Geo G3ZQS. Send their info to Geo 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

**...HAVE AN APPLICATION OR NEWSLETTER SAMPLE SENT TO FRIENDS?** Send their address Joe K5HLR 29 Melrose Dr, Marrero LA, 70072. Pse enclose \$1 if sample Keynote is requested. An application is also available, in text format, for downloading on our Web page <http://www.FISTS.org>

**...APPLY FOR THE CENTURY or WAS AWARD?** Send a list of contacts (call, FISTS #, date, band) and power used to Joe N3LBC, 222 E Bertsch St, Lansford PA 18232. Don't submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members for the regular Century Award. If you are applying for the Golden/Diamond Century or the Platinum, send your request directly to HQ in England (119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs England BB3 2LZ) including sufficient return postage.

**...VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY?** send your requirements and info to John W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory Ave, Grayslake IL60030. Email to w9em@aol.com

**...SHARE COMPUTER SOFTWARE?** Joe WZ8U 5428 Bolander Grand Blanc MI 48439

**...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES?** Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038

**...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION** Contact Joe KK5NA at KK5NA@quadj.com or 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington, TX 76016. Let him know the date and approx number of attendees.

**...FIND THE WEB PAGE?** <http://www.FISTS.org>

**...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE?** Contact Bill KK4KF at bjmyers@arc.net

**...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS?** send SASE to WX9X at 354 West St, Valparaiso IN 46383

**...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE?** Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign and "Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$6.95 post-paid from The Signman of Baton Rouge 879 Castle Kirk Dr, Baton Rouge LA 70808; email nv5a@aol.com

A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd, Medford NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

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The Keynote is published approximately monthly by Nancy Kott WZ8C, P. O. Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047 Email: nancy@tir.com WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for space, clarity and topic suitability. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. Articles from The Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.

# North **KEYNOTE** American

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday & Thursday 9pm EST on 3.682  
Slow Ragchewing Group: W8BI 8pm EST Wed on 3.720  
Century Award Net: Sunday 1900Z (1500est/edt) on 14.058MHz  
Saturday QSO Groups: 14.058 at 2000Z and 7.058 at 2300Z  
Sunday Slow Speed Chat 21.158MHz at 1700Z

Please keep watch on the Novice Bands and frequencies ending in .x58

Accuracy Transcends Speed

Courtesy At All Times

Hello FISTS! The T-shirts are here! So are the mugs! The T-shirts look similar to the one on the front cover, except that the blue of the shirt is a bit brighter and deeper and the words FISTS CW Club and the lightning bolts are in red. The mugs are white with the graphic in blue and red.

Mugs are \$7.50, INCLUDING POSTAGE. The shirts are \$9 for S, M, L, XL and \$10 for XXL and XXXL, INCLUDING POSTAGE. Please be sure of your size - they are 50/50 poly-cotton blend and shouldn't shrink. But we can't make exchanges because this isn't an item we are going to keep in stock. Order them from our Supply Manager, Irene, WO8E, 44609 N Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038. While you're writing to Irene, why not put a photo of yourself in the envelope for Ken W8ROG, who does our PhotoPages at the same address!

Here's Ken KB2ART's story of the history of the shirts: "I had been looking for the original 'CW is the real thing' shirt ever since I saw a picture of a ham wearing one in an issue of QST. I thought it would be neat to have one. This is because I was studying for my 13wpm code test and I was surrounding myself with cw 'stuff'. Of course it included joining FISTS some months before.

I e-mailed the ham in the picture and also wrote him two letters (including SASE's), about 6 months apart; no response. Another e-mail with no response. Finally I got the idea of asking Nancy, WZ8C, as she must know everything about CW. She e-mailed a photo of herself wearing the shirt (which she received from Mike N3HLM) to me, which confirmed that this was

the shirt. Nancy said she saw them for sale at the Dayton Hamvention. She suggested that maybe it was sold though 'CQ' magazine. An e-mail to CQ magazine, was not fruitful, they had never sold anything like it.

So an idea struck. I knew a local silk screener and figured I'd make up one for myself. Back to the trusty computer, had a duplication of the shirt in no time! The key in the middle looked fine (it was just a plain code key). But what about the FISTS logo. I quickly downloaded the logo from the web, and put it on the shirt. Looked great. A little more fiddling and it was ready. I decided to contact Nancy about the shirt. One thing to another, and it became the club shirt. A little enhancement and we had it. Getting the shirt printed was the easy part. So basically, I am not totally responsible for the 'T' shirt. However I think the enhancements made to the original is great for the club. So, look for me on the low bands, now that I have upgraded (to General after 36 years as tech+). But go slow, as I am still struggling. Best 73 to all Ken WB2ART #3456

On another note, when you write to me or one of the FISTS helpers, it would be a major help if you would include your callsign, FISTS # and address (if you require an answer) with your letter. It's no big deal to look up an address, but I get about 50 pieces of mail/Email a day. It adds to the workload when I have to stop and backtrack to look something up. I know the other FISTS helpers would appreciate it also. Thanks!!

Happy Holidays, and hope to see you Straight Key Night! 73 88 Nancy

# Welcome to the New FISTS

Callsign	First_Name	#	State	Sponsor
KC5IZN	MARK	5425	OK	
N4EUK	STEVE	5426	VA	Webpage
KE6HEZ	BILL	5427	CA	
W8OI	GARRY	5428	WV	N8FL
W90W	JOHN	5429	IL	WB2FXK
KF6PEP	HILLARI	5430	CA	
K4WOP	JIM	5431	TN	N9BOR
W5ZZM	JACK	5432	NM	WB3FXK
WB5MFI	STEVE	5433	TX	Webpage
K6HRT	DICK	5434	CA	KK7GR
N3BB	JIM	5435	TX	AF5Z
KC5MMH	STEVE	5436	TX	KK5NA
W7IZE	Joe	5437	OR	AA9KH
W3EE	Lee	5438	MD	W3DCN
KB3COQ	GEORGETTA	5439	PA	N3YWQ
N3YWP	ANDREA	5440	PA	N3YWQ
KB3BSR	DESIREE	5441	PA	N3YWQ
WA6HHN	MARK	5442	CA	W0VHV
KB5TXV	BAXTER	5443	TX	
AA1TO	NORM	5444	ME	W8DEA
W1XU	JAMES	5445	AZ	KS7J
KB8FYG	THOMAS	5446	OH	KB0LF
AA6VZ	LARRY	5447	CA	Webpage
K7RRR	DICK	5448	AZ	Webpage
WE9G	MAX	5449	IN	W9ISC
KG9NJ	FRED	5450	IN	AC5JH
WA9OJJ	JIM	5451	PA	Webpage
WB2KQG	VINNY	5452	VA	K5HLR
N5JSA	MIKE	5453	LA	K5APB
N9ZLJ	BRYANT	5454	IL	
KF4EBW	TIM	5455	TN	K4PTU
KB8ZZX	REV JAMES	5456	MI	K8JWR
WN6HYX	Mary	5457	CA	WA6HHN
KL0OZ	BOB	5458	AK	KS7J
KE4IPW	BOB	5459	TN	WA2OVT
N2ZW	JERRY	5460	NJ	N2WJ
WD8DAU	DAN	5461	OH	
KF6IEX	JEAN	5462	CA	W0BXS/KE6PWJ
N5PJY	TOMMMY	5463	TX	VE5HQ
KF4WRF	JIM	5464	NC	Webpage
N5KF	BOB	5465	TX	AF5Z
KF6MWA	DOUG	5466	CA	
AC4NV	ORVILLE	5467	VA	WB2FXK
AC4XS	MICHAEL	5468	KY	
KD4AL	BILL	5469	NC	Webpage
KM6LO	HARRY	5470	CA	
KB6RZ	RAY	5471	CA	
KM5SS	ADAM	5472	TX	KC4UBC
K9LCK	JIM	5473	WI	
KB1P	Paul	5474	ME	
N9FVL	HERB	5475	WI	W9NLA
KQ6NN	THOMAS	5476	CA	KS7J

Callsign	Name	FISTS#	State	Sponsor
K3KYR	JEFF	5477	NY	
AD4HE	DUANE	5478	CA	
KA1YHI	TOM	5479	MA	Webpage
KF4AAF	CHRIS	5480	FL	N4GD
K9IQP	GILBERT	5481	IL	W9EM
N7TRA	CARROLL	5482	WA	VE7MMH
WY3I	DAN	5483	PA	
AA8VE	JEFF	5484	MI	WA8BIJ
N8WRS	TIM	5485	OH	K6DF/KB8OOM
W6FJD	TRAVIS	5486	CA	G3ASF
KA1RVM	BILL	5487	MA	AD4UI
K1BXZ	DAVID	5488	NH	K8JWR
KB3CUP	ELZA	5489	PA	N3YWQ
K7YM	BILL	5490	WY	Webpage
WG1L	JAMES	5491	MA	WA4KQL
W7VI	STEVE	5492	NV	KK7OM
KF4ZEO	JILL	5493	TN	KK5HR
K3TRM	FRANK	5494	VA	Webpage
KE6SLS	JAYE	5495	CA	WA6SBB
W5RYV	JIM	5496	TX	K0OAL
KF4JSV	JEFF	5497	VA	Webpage
AB0FR	BRENT	5498	ND	Webpage
KB7SGO	BOB	5499	WA	KE7XX
NB6GC	USS	5600	CA	K6DF
N7EQH	GEORGE	5601	WA	WA7MMG
K8VFR	ROSEMARIE	5602	MI	KB2PLW/WB1FXK
WB0SOK	RON	5603	MN	Webpage
KC7ZDX	DAVE	5604	AZ	Webpage
KA8OKH	RICH	5605	KY	Webpage
K5QD	RHONDA	5606	TX	KC5HAC
KI8FL	MIKE	5607	MI	Webpage
K5DLE	GENE	5608	OK	KK5FX
K6BHH	CURT	5609	CA	N6RNP
VE1CT	CHARLIE	5610	NS	Webpage
KD5EBD	WAYNE	5611	MS	Webpage
K2LMQ	PAUL	5612	NY	AB7UW
WB9PEA	RON	5613	IL	Webpage
W7HPA	MARY	5614	WA	KD7AKR
AB2FN	RICH	5615	NY	AA8MI
K7DU	GEORGE	5616	WY	KB4OPV
KH6/W7GMH	EDDIE	5617	HI	AA1RR
K7DOH	WARREN	5618	WA	WA7MMG
AA2VX	MIKE	5619	NY	WB2FXK
W7KOV	ED	5620	CA	W6STU
KB0ZGU	DALE	5621	KS	W6DDB
KK1A	KARL	5622	OR	KS7J
W6RWI	JIM	5623	CA	KS7J
W6QPV	ROSE	5624	CA	KS7J
VE2ENB	GILLES	5625	QUE	WB3FXK
AJ6Z	COURTNEY	5626	CA	
N4NIE	CLYDE	5627	VA	N4MMY
W5JF	JOSEPH	5628	TX	WB2FXK
N8CRN	MEL	5629	MI	Webpage
8P6PF	PAUL	5630		WD8NES

## Net Activity

### Waterway CW Net Freq

The Waterway CW (WWCW) Net is for all Hams to come up and say GM, they don't have to be on a boat or RV. But we do have a lot of folks on the go now using both modes of travel.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday are designated SLOW CW days and the remainder are pretty much open to what ever speed you want to send, depending upon the NCS capabilities.

So, we are operating on 7128 (that was an effort to get Novice & Technician to check-in) until November 15th 1998. Starting on the 16th we will be on 7050.

We have not had much activity from your group but hope to in the future. Ed AD4FJ #2121

### Sunday Century Net

Check-ins for Oct 4: Well had a really hot net today. Lasted about 10 minutes and had 2 check-ins. WA1GAG and KC5VJU. Conditions here were bad. I had heavy QRN and Jim also said he couldn't hear anyone else. We called CQ 'till about 10 after and gave up. Better next time. 73 Al/W8FAX

Check-ins for Oct. 18: K8EY/NCS; WA4LDQ; KQ6NS; KC5VJU; WA5KOI; N4VEF; K2SWZ; AC5P; K4UOZ. Cndx: Good. Much qrm from QRP test.

Check-ins for Oct 25: AC6TO/NCS, AA9KH; KC5VJU; K6DF; NB2T; N4VEF; W5ZZM; K2SWZ; KB8KIK.

Check-ins for Nov 1: W8BL /NCS, WA1GAG, VE4GEC, N7IF, AA9KH, WA4LDQ, VE6AWI, W7EAI, DL1CC, AF5Z, N1NGM, KS6Z, K6FFF, K2IUC, WB2HEK. Cndx: Fair to poor. QRM bad, think another Test in progress.

Check-ins for Nov 5: W8BL /NCS, N4VEF, K6DF, K7ZYV, AA9KH, KG2OK, N5AF, K0HFK, KC5T, K0OAL, WZ8C, WB2HEK, VE6GHM, KI5UK, KC5VJU. Cndx: Good. NCS experienced some QRM but band was in good shape for stateside members.

## Ten Meter Net

Tom, K6TV, runs the Downey California Slow Speed Net (DSSN) on 28.325 MHz on Mon and Wed, 7:30PM local time. The net uses a Elmer/student plan. They send a canned message for the students at 5-7 wpm and those who need to practice at a faster rate are sent off frequency with one of the Elmers. They start off on CW and end up on phone for read-back of the message and any critique. All are welcome to join the net.

### Alligators?

Paul WB2GIN, reminds us --When a FIST member calls he should listen for weak signals. It's very poor operating procedure to be an alligator who calls cq or fists 10 time and then doesn't listen for a response, specially around the QRP frequencies.

### ASA Response

W9CC, Larry's query about other members of the ASA brought back a lot of memories for many FISTS. I thought I'd share part of one of the letters here:

"NSA, National Security Agency, was a great place to work. A lot of GI's stayed to continue work as a civilian. I keep in touch with two the civilians I remain good friends today. One was a ham who kept sparking my interest in ham radio. (My XYL said I already was a "ham" so why did I need to have a license for it. Hi!)

Still today, I look affectionately at a R-390 at harvests. Larry, I assume you do also. I didn't stay with the NSA. I came home to college and to marry my girlfriend.

I have been told that Ft. Dix, Ft. Meade and Shemya AFB have closed their military operations. The ASA is no longer. But they are good memories for a young kid just out of high school. As the CW rings in my ears today, it brings back good thoughts of the men I was privileged to know- 058's, 059's, electronic intelligence, etc. It is all dinosaur stuff these days, but the marvel is there, and I am there in awe of the modern day radio. Thank heavens my XYL still loves and puts up with me. Thanks, Larry, for sparking the memory bank once again.

73, Dave-KB2KBY- #4948

## FISTS Code Buddy Program

*by John W8EM*

Hello FISTS! Hope everyone had a good is enjoying the change in weather. Here in the Midwest the trees have turned and everyone is buttoning up the house and tuning up the radios. Now that the indoor season is approaching, it is the perfect time to get involved in the code buddy program either as a student or teacher.

Last month the Code Buddy database contained one eighty four entries. This month we have one hundred and ninety-five. We continue to grow but at a slightly slower rate during the summer months. We had ten assignments (this includes both students and teachers).

I've had a number of inquiries regarding PC CW programs. I thought it might be interesting to see which programs the members recommend. If you have a favorite, please send me the name and the information on how to obtain the program (shareware, freeware and commercial). Also, any comments, recommendations and special features you feel are unique. I'll compile the results and publish a list for the membership.

Thanks again for your interest and support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like additional information about the FISTS Code Buddy Program. 73 John - W9EM

### Silent Key

*by Nick, NONY, FISTS 3549*

I sadly report the passing of Paul Arnold, W3EVG, FISTS 5366, on Sept 19, 1998. He was born in Missouri Nov 8, 1929, retired from the Navy as a Chief Radioman in 1966, and then worked another 28 years at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, finally retiring for good in 1994. He died from cardiac arrest. I met him while doing public service events with the Anne Arundel Radio Club, and he became very interested in CW over the last year. He joined FISTS not long ago and had just upgraded to Amateur Extra on Sept 12. I will miss him very much.

## Callsign Changes

Dan, #4985, was N8VZU - is now N8IE  
John, #4134, was KC2AHE - is now N2SX  
Geno AL7GQ is now NR0NR  
Dave, #5119 was KC8JGA - is now W8DEP  
Don KA3ZBN is now K3DON  
Chuck, #4323, was K8ICW - is now W8VOM  
George, #3017, was AD7ABJ - is now AB7ZL  
Charles, WD5CJI, is now WB5T  
Ken, #5180, was WB4EQZ - is now K4DIT  
Duane, #5478 was KF6LNI - is now AD6HE  
John, #4040 was NW8G is now NZ4M

### Congrats!

To Dan N8IE on his upgrade to Extra!  
To John N2SX on his upgrade to Extra!  
To Mark, #4223 on his upgrade to Extra!  
To Bob KL0OZ on his upgrade to General!  
To Gene KE6FFF, #4306 on his upgrade to Extra!  
To George AB7ZL on his upgrade to Extra!  
To Tony KE6YNR, #3535 on passing his 20 WPM!  
To Bruce KK7OM on his upgrade to Extra!  
To Jep KU4NE on his upgrade to Extra!  
To Tom KI8CZ on his upgrade to Extra!  
To Ken WB2ART on his upgrade to General!  
To Art, KB9OVS, on his upgrade to General!

## Corrections

WB5ITB Ken, #5314 should have been listed in the new member roster as WB6ITB.

The FISTS CW Club of Coastal Georgia is NC4CW not KC4CW.

## PhotoPages

Have you sent in your photo for the photopages? We need 32 photos to make a page, so send yours so we can finish up the next page!

You'll also be entered into our monthly drawing for a goodie bag of FISTS supplies. The winners are: September: KD4PUP October AA9LS

## For Sale

Mercury paddle with extra paddles and posts. \$800 or best offer over \$800. No phone calls accepted! Email N9MU@aol.com or Bob Miller P.O. Box 2006 Northbrook, Illinois 60065

## Webpage URL

The only URL for the FISTS page is now <<http://www.FISTS.org>>. If you have a link/ bookmark for the page, please check to see you're using the right URL.



## FISTS Members Are The Best!

*I've known this all along, of course, but it's nice to see it in writing!*

I just wanted to pass along that I was able to upgrade to Extra in August. I could not have done it without the help of all the FISTS Members with whom I had QSO's. I had tried WIAW broadcasts, the Koch method, a tape program, and at least two computer programs to get my code speed up to 20 wpm. Although these aids were of some benefit, nothing worked as well as getting on the air. My code speed increased more rapidly in a shorter amount of time when I was finally able to use CW. Thanks for all the hard work that you put into the FISTS Club, Nancy. Sincerely, Mark Kellum FISTS #4223

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Thank you to all the members that replied to my request for a copy of the HW-8 manual. I received 16 replies, and every one of them offered to either allow me to borrow their HW-8 manual to copy, or to copy what ever pages I need. Just shows us how friendly and helpful the FISTS are. Thank you. Ray, N9CIB FISTS # 1922

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I was at school in Norman, OK armed with a borrowed MFJ 40 meter QRP rig and a 40 meter dipole. Low and behold the school let me hang the dipole out the 5th story window to my liking.

After countless CQing with my K-1 Logic Key, I hear K4PTU come answer my call. What a great QSO. Thanks for getting me started in FISTS Pete. So Pete sponsors me and I get on the air in October 97. Being a new guy to the FISTS frequencies I immediately started to just play the bands.

I end up on 20 mtrs, of course, CQing around again and K6DF comes back to me. We must have pounded the paddles for a good hour to hour and a half then K6DF sends to me, did you receive your certificate? I had no idea what he was talking about. Then he informed me the "FISTS" certificate. At that time, I looked up while he is sending and low and behold, guess who signed my certificate, you're right, K6DF. Well, not only was that good for a laugh at the time but little did I know that he also put me in for the ARRL Rag Chewer Award.

I've only been hamming 4 yrs at the time and to me this is really neat. My friends just can't see sitting

down and shooting the bull on CW. I love it and I thank not only Dennis (K6DF) for the Award but also Pete (K4PTU) for introducing me to FISTS.

Since then I have given two Presentations on FISTS, thanks to KK5NA for the presentation kit. Once again, FISTS is a great place to meet. Everyone has to check out the great homepage of K6DF, especially if you were a Navy Radioman. 73 de K3MP Mark Petrino, FISTS # 3903

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Wheweee! I passed 20 wpm at Pacificon. Besides my hard work, I'd like to credit my Code Buddy, Allan Taylor, K7GT, #3232. Allan nudged me, was patient and relentless, encouraged me, and generally kept me going. \*\*\* Thanks, Allan! \*\*\* Thanks, Code Buddy Program! 73, Tony KE6YNR

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OK so I'm beaming like a new father. Just passed elements 1C and 4B and am now an Extra Class. Couldn't wait to tell some one.

Thanks to all the FISTS members fro providing the organization that spurred me on to complete the requirements in the face of all the discussions revolving about reducing the code requirements. I could have just sloughed off and waited for it to happen, but FISTS has provided the impetus that convinced me to just do it (to borrow a phrase from NIKE shoes).

This is as much an accomplishment for you as it is for me. Now let us continue on and encourage others to do the same. I have a new no code tech in the area who is expressing an interest in cw. Guess where my code practice tapes are going. 73 de KI8CZ Tom Isgro

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I'd have to say that the code buddy program is one of the best programs of its kind I've ever seen. I'll be submitting my code buddy application soon, and I hope that sometime in the future, I'm able to do for some new ham what Gus, KA7MGM, did for me. He truly represents the best of our club, and ham radio in general. As an aside, he came to Nevada a few weeks ago and I got a chance to meet Gus, his wife "The General" (her new nickname since she just upgraded to General) and one of his daughters and son in law. It was great. Thanks for a job well done to you, the other FISTS code buddies, and Gus.

Bruce W Thee, KK7OM/AE

## **My Little World**

*by Cameron Bailey KT3A*

When the noise of the world begins to subside,  
My mind drifts to wonder who may be out there on  
the airwaves. I make my way to a little secluded room,  
my world. As I flip on switches my little radio springs  
to life and music begins to fill the room.

Most people don't understand why I retreat to a world  
of single tones, rhythms, and beats. But, I am about  
to meet and make friends hundreds of miles away.

As my hand taps out words sent as currents on the  
wire, something magical happens. The conversation  
begins. Words of encouragement, best wishes, and  
questions about the welfare of my family are sent and  
received from the friend on the other end of the world.

I don't know the color of his or her skin. They could  
be blind or have a disability. I don't know if they  
have an accent, or how tall or short their stature. It  
does not matter, for the language we speak has no  
barriers and holds no grudge.

While others in voice modes or shortwave broadcasts  
spew messages of hate, I will be in the language that  
tears down the walls that divide.

What a sweet language, as I hear the friend on the  
other end send Best Regards, 73, and hope to see you  
again.

In this crazy world, out of millions of people, one  
chooses to answer my call. The friend answers and  
then we begin. We converse as friends, using the  
language of Morse.

## **Senility Prayer**

*submitted by Ed Woodson NC5S*

God, grant me the Senility  
to forget the people  
I never liked anyway,  
the good fortune  
to run into the ones I do,  
and the eyesight  
to tell the difference.

## **The Final Word**

*submitted by Rich KG2HG*

And lo it came to pass in the year of the 60's  
that there was a wailing and gnashing of teeth to be  
heard throughout the land, and cries unto the Lord  
of Radio saying, "Oh Lord we don't want to dwell  
in the land of HF and to undergo the ritual of  
Samuel. We want to dwell in the high country in the  
lands of VHF, UHF and SHF."

The Lord looked down upon them and said, "this is  
a reasonable request my children, so let it be."

Evil however gripped the hearts and minds of the  
next generation. They looked with envy upon the  
lands of HF and said "many good things grow in  
the land of HF that do not grow up in the high  
country, let us descend and partake of these things."  
The Lord said unto them, "Certainly my children,  
learn the lessons and undergo the ritual of Samuel."

And many took the test and they and their descen-  
dants were blessed and lived long and happy lives  
in all of the lands of Radio.

There were some however who did not wish to learn  
the lessons and undergo the ritual as written down  
in the book of Samuel. They cried out and said,  
"We want these things without the ritual."

The Lord of Radio, looked down upon these  
miserable sinners and in a loud voice which was  
heard throughout the land sayeth unto them:

"TUFF"

## **Poem by Bill Down, VE5HQ**

QRN, QRM, QSB es all..

will not deter me anytime, from sending out my call..  
There may be someone out there, waiting patiently,  
for the sound of friendly code, coming from my key..  
I must make sure I send it well, es with a steady hand,  
so the one receiving it will not misunderstand...

I QRS and ask the same, if I feel the need -  
I will not try impressing you, pretending I can speed;  
I vow I will be patient, and do a slo "ragchew"  
with the new ops that I meet...I was new once too!  
So as I sit, and send my call, and wonder who I'll  
meet, I marvel at the way this works...

I think it's kinda neat!

So listen up all you ops! The new as well as old...

For my call...I'll work you all!

'Cause I just "LOVE" morse code!



## Hit and Run QSO's

*The most frequent "complaint" I hear is about FISTS number collectors doing Hit and Run QSO's. Please, FISTS, take a few extra minutes to have a chat when you're on the air collecting FISTS numbers. People join FISTS because we're MORE than a number, we're a friend! Getting a number, then abruptly ending the QSO with a QRZ? or contest style action - or worse, refusing to QSO if the person is not a FISTS member is not only rude, it creates a bad impression of FISTS. Don't tarnish the FISTS reputation by turning wallpaper chasing into the most important thing. This letter from Vince WA8BIJ puts it very well.*

I received a QSL card from Gene/NS9F, after having a very nice contact, while I was camping in northern Michigan. I usually try to have long gab sessions on CW and enjoy every minute of it. Gene wrote, as an ending sentence, on his QSL card, "Have gone to FISTS and all they wanted was my number, when I told no number it was 73, I'm not big into collecting numbers." (This is the exact quote from the card.)

My concern is, it's nice to prove ones prowess be collecting FISTS numbers to show how active one has been with other FISTS. members, but I think many members forget, or forgot, the true concept of being a good CW operator. It's fellowship, goodwill and "When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend".

Now, what "friend" would give another friend a brush off by quickly giving a "73" and leave a conversation? Maybe this could be done during a contest, by I believe it's totally unacceptable during a contact between two amateurs having a common hobby of communicating.

Most often, I have the conversation first, then upon closing, ask if the other "friend" is a FISTS member. If not, hey no problem, I can get one next time. The contact and fellowship should have the highest priority during any CW contact. If the other fellow isn't a FISTS member, that doesn't make him/her any less than we are. Go ahead and have a nice long QSO with him/her. You may find it more enlightening that collecting that one more number. 73/88 Vince/WA8BIJ

## Gold, Platinum, and Diamond Awards

Since we're on the subject of Awards, I have an update I need to share with you. From now on, send your applications for the above awards to:

**BOB LOWE G0FRL , PO BOX 190, BOLTON  
BL1 4UL ENGLAND** Be sure to include your address and what award you are applying for!

Also the price for these awards has gone up to cover the costs. Geo, G3ZQS, explains: "In order to issue something 'special', I have been printing all awards greater than the Century. First, the special 130gsm awards are stuffed through the laser. I then run a hot-foil ribbon over the name of the award... Silver in the case of Platinum and Diamond and of course, Gold for the Gold award.

This is a painstaking job and it is not unusual to burn up 4 award blanks to get an acceptable result. On the whole, I have been spending up to 45 minutes getting each award the way I wanted it. I have little doubt that it is all a matter of technique. The recommended practice of tacking the ribbon to the award and running it through the laser a second time under a blank page simply does not work with a type-face of the size we are using so I have resorted to an electric iron which is successful after a fashion.

I hate to sound mercenary but it is costing us. The bulk of applicants are coming from the US members which of course is to be expected, but the recommended \$2.00 is barely covering the postage (average £1.60) which leaves us footing the bill for the award blanks, stiffeners and suitable size envelopes. Add to this the fact that one award was returned (the US Post Office unlike our own postal service makes no attempt at delivery even with the most obvious addressing error) and two were actually lost in the mail. Of course we had to go through the whole process again in order to get the awards to the applicants - three additional total costs - which is more than we would receive in subs from a EU member. **We are obliged to ask for \$5.00 to cover the costs of producing and mailing these awards."**

Joe, N3LBC, will continue to issue the Basic Century/ other USA awards free of charge to FISTS members; one of the benefits of your keeping your FISTS subscription current.

Hopefully many of you have heard of, and maybe worked, the WA7YYY Cowlitz Fists Club station. We are located in Cowlitz County in the State of Washington. The club's Fists number is 1900, and we presently have twenty-one members. Any one of our members may use the WA7YYY call, provided they have in their possession a copy of the club license and the club log book.

We started the club about four years ago, with the understanding that each member must belong to the International Fists Organization, and obviously have an enthusiasm for CW. We have no dues, but we have the good *fortune of having at our disposal the club station*, and building of W7DG, the Lower Columbia Amateur Radio Assn. We are all members of this club also. The club station is located at 1000 feet above the City of Longview, WA and we have mono-band beams on top of a 100 Ft. tower, with slopers for 40 & 80 meters.

There are four operating positions in our 50 X 25 Ft. building, and we have repeaters on 2 meters, 440, and in the near future on 220 also.

To encourage the use of CW we try various methods. We participate in the FISTS Sprints, which I personally thoroughly enjoy, and every so often we have a local get-together on ten meters. These "local sprints" are for club members to work each other and are meant to encourage those of our group who may be "shy" or nervous about getting on the air. I even manage to get my XYL to participate, which makes the others sit up and pay attention. They don't often hear June, KA7TIF (Fist #2006) and really get a kick out of working her. She does a nice job on a hand key.

I was fortunate to have an excellent teacher when I was studying for my Novice license and as a result my enthusiasm for CW has never waned over the years. I enjoy working this mode better than any other, and since joining Fists I have been recapturing those early days of my first experiences in ham radio. One finds the nicest folks on 14.058 Mhz. 73, Stu, K7WF (Pres. Cowlitz Fists Club)

AMSAT says that you are all invited to join in the 27th annual Straight Key Night on OSCAR. It takes place the evening of January 1st 1999 and is an operating event sponsored by AMSAT North America for Amateur Radio satellite enthusiasts worldwide. Straight Key Night on the satellites is entirely unofficial. There are no rules, no scoring and no need to send in a log. All you need to do to take part is to simply call call CQ SKN in the CW passband segment of any OSCAR satellite from 0000 to 2359 UTC or answer a CQ SKN call from another station. OSCAR Zero contacts count too. Of course, all SKN operating must be done with a straight hand key.

Those participating are encouraged to nominate someone they worked for recognition as having the "best fist." Nominations go to W2RS; by e-mail to w2rs@amsat.org.

### US Islands Program

Gerald N4GD is very interested in the US Islands program. He has six registered islands in his area with IOTA. To activate an island, you must work a minimum of 25 stations with at least two countries. The qualifications manager says he doesn't think Gerald can qualify a island on CW. Seems the island chasers are SSB ops with a main freq. of 14260. You can listen to them running islands there daily.

Gerald is hoping more CW ops will get into this. He think the novice and tech plus and others shud be able to work and run some islands also. He plans to operate CW on the novice/tech sub bands. The USI Web site is very interesting - if you have Web capability, check it out! < <http://www.eng.mu.edu/~usi> >

### FREE

Jack KA8WNO has an Underwood "mill" made for and used by the Western Union back when they were sending telegrams. It was no upper case, the mechanism that advances the ribbon doesn't work any longer. Local repairman says he believes a chain that drives this mechanism is available. He no longer uses it and would like to give it to someone who would enjoy it. His address is HC 61, Box 45A, Coalton WV 26257.

## QRP With John Shannon KK3WP

Nancy and I agreed that it may be a good idea to repeat some of my earlier columns for those who have joined FISTS recently. This is the first one of those 'reruns'. Actually this is an updated version of one of my earlier columns. In April 1997 my streak of days with at least one QRP QSO reached 1000 days. Recently that streak reached 1500 days so I have updated the report I did for the 1000 days.

On August 5, 1994 I worked KG9N/C6A. Nothing unusual about that, for sure. However, on September 12, 1998 I worked W2BJ. Still nothing unusual. What is perhaps a little unusual is that on each of the 1500 days between and including those two dates, I made at least one minimal QRP QSO. For those of you new to my writings, the term 'minimal' means that I use only simple wire antennas to keep my effective radiated power at 5 watts or less. I do not use multi-element antennas to boost my ERP.

All too often in magazine or newsletter write-ups, on-air discussions, books, etc. about QRP we hear how someone worked this or that station with a power of 4 watts or some other one-time thing. That leaves the impression that these QRP contacts are an isolated thing possible only when conditions are right. I want to set the record straight. QRP is a viable force in ham radio. It is something that will work day in, day out. You can use it as your prime operating mode in ham radio.

The 1500 day period has spanned the minimum of a sunspot cycle when even QRO stations were supposed to be having difficulty making contacts. Now that conditions are improving it is easier to make the QSOs. However with the increased solar activity come the inevitable geomagnetic storms that can wipe out radio communications completely for short periods of time. So far during this upswing of the solar cycle, I have had a couple days when it was very hard to get that QSO, but I made it. I didn't do anything special to ensure the continuation of the streak. By that I mean I didn't check into any nets along the way. I made no schedules with anyone to continue the streak. I didn't use packet spotting. I simply got on the air each day and called CQ, answered someone's CQ, or on contest weekends got into the contests. I never signed /QRP after my call.

All contacts, of course, were made on CW since that is the only mode I operate here. I don't know if it could have been done on any other mode - at least it wouldn't have been so easy.

Included in the streak are 17266 contacts with all 50 states, all 7 continents, 146 countries, 1249 prefixes, and 31 CQ Zones. Many many good solid rag chews. Countless 'you're doing great (FB, good, fantastic, etc.) with your QRP' and 'it's hard to believe you're running QRP'.

I spread my activity over all 9 HF bands and most times of the day. I worked all sections of the bands from the Extra Class segments up to the Novice part of the bands. For a good many of the QSO's I used less than 5 watts. In fact all the way down to 70 mW which is about as low as I can get my power output by reducing the screen voltage on my 6Y6 final to 0 volts. With that 70 mW I worked Aruba as my best QSO so far. With 500 mW, my best QSO was working the Balearic Islands. I haven't done much work with mW power levels lately. I will have to get back to it now that conditions have improved.

The most distant QSO overall was one with VK6HQ near Perth, Australia who surprised me on 30M by answering my CQ. I think it may have been a long path QSO also, which would make the distance more than halfway around the world, but even if it was normal path it is my most distant.

The state I worked the fewest times was Nevada which I worked 14 times. Most often worked was my home state of PA with 1612 QSO's. Most often worked DX country among my 2165 DX contacts was Germany with 113 QSO's. Puerto Rico 2nd with 94, and England 3rd with 81. Divided by continents NA - 15879, EU - 968, SA - 269, AF - 62, AS - 52, OC - 22, AN - 5. Most QSO's on a band - 5492 on 40M; fewest 26 on 12M. 528 QSO's came with less than 5 watts, 56 with less than 1/2 watt, the rest with 5 watts. It took 360 days to get to 100 countries when I worked RW0A on July 30, 1995. That QSO also completed WAC during the streak. WAS took 198 days and was completed by working KL7Y on Feb 18, 1995.

The purpose of my giving all this information about my streak is simply to show anyone who reads this that QRP does work, even with simple wire antennas.

If you are in a situation where you can't use high power or put up huge antennas, maybe my results will encourage you to get on the air with a simple setup and give it a try. I guarantee you that you will succeed and be able to enjoy the finest of all hobbies. There are other benefits to operating with QRP also. You don't have to worry about the big fuss that is being made about RF radiation hazards. TVI, RFI, EMI, etc. will be either nonexistent or much easier to cure than with high power. Give it a try - you may never go QRO again.

Finally, many have asked me about the various QRP rigs available. My web site now has a page of info about most current QRP xcvrs and xmtrs. As always I can be reached via [johnshan@alltel.net](mailto:johnshan@alltel.net) or <http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan> or 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. It's your input that keeps these columns coming. 73. -30-

### **Elmer #1: My Dad - Joseph Wormser, W5GKX**

*by Alan Wormser, N5LF #3027*

Dad was a real CW operator! But even though he easily cruised along at 35 to 40+ wpm, he would ALWAYS slow down for newcomers. By the time I was in school, he was no longer active on the air, but we always had a shortwave radio in the house. At 11 years of age, I was an avid shortwave listener, tuning into BBC London, Deutsche Welle, Radio Canada, Voice of America, and Radio Netherlands.

One day he brought home a Hallicrafters S40A receiver. It had a BFO, so I could listen to CW stations beeping to each other, and could finally hear intelligible voices from the hams using SSB (before that they all sounded like Donald Duck). I had discovered the ham bands! I knew Dad had been a ham once, but was astounded when he translated the CW signals for me. I kept listening to my shortwave broadcasts on the old Hallicrafters -- it sounded a lot better than our little transistorized portable. And occasionally I would listen to the hams on 20 meters using SSB. But I wished that I could make out the CW signals like Dad could.

So, I asked him about getting my Novice ticket. He bought me an ARRL license manual and "Operating

an Amateur Radio Station" (much thinner than the more recent editions), and another book on learning the Morse Code. But at 12 or 13, I was too impatient to stick with it. Besides, I had other distractions: backyard astronomy, school, girls. So I was satisfied to be a SWL for a few more years and ham radio stayed at the back of my mind as "something to get back to eventually." Six years later, when I finally got my ticket, Dad helped me get on the air with a Heathkit DX-60B transmitter and the matching HR-10 receiver. He showed how to tune an antenna, how to measure SWR and use a grid dip meter, the proper straight key "fist," and how to use a bug without a swing (a bad habit -- sometimes cultivated by the old timers). He instilled in me that a good, clear fist was more important than fast sending, and to always ask "QRL?" or "didit dit" before transmitting.

Soon after I got my Novice ticket, Dad went downtown to the FCC office and took ALL the exam elements (CW and written) in a single day! And in 1976, he was back on the air for the first time in 16 years - first as WB5RGY, then with his original callsign, W5GKX. My mother joked that we could have a tower, but only if she could use it as a rose trellis. We settled on a trap vertical - and I still use one today.

He hated certificates and contests, but loved chasing rare DX and CW ragchewing. So, together we would stay up until the wee hours taking turns at the rig, working the South Pacific, Antarctica, or Africa.

And now he is gone.

But I am with him whenever I am on the air working DX or on CW. And I still send traffic with his old Vibroplex bug -- the one he taught me to use so many years ago.

The attraction to amateur radio, and especially CW operating, is different for each person. For me, in part, it is a communion with my father. And now, as I listen to the faint warble of a DX operator answering my callsign from half way around the world -- I can still hear Dad standing behind me, snapping his fingers and exclaiming, "Got him, Son!"

I asked Alan what a "BFO" is, and thought you would be interested in his answer - hope you'll learn something, as I did, or that it will bring back memories for the "old-timer" FISTS.

Alan wrote: ". The BFO (Beat Frequency Oscillator) is an oscillator that sort of inserts its own carrier into an AM receiver. The CW or SSB signal beats (whistles) against the BFO -- so they become intelligible.

Better radios of the 1940s and 1950s (like the S40A - a 1943 vintage) were AM receivers with a BFO added. To hear CW or SSB, you'd throw a toggle switch marked BFO to "ON", and fiddle with the tuning knob and the BFO adjustment knob to get the best sound or CW note. To listen to AM broadcasts, you'd just turn the BFO off.

These were an improvement over the earlier "dual mode" receivers -- the regeneratives. Those had a knob and you'd move one way for AM signals and the other was for CW (and SSB if they'd had it).

The problem with a regen is that the stages of the receiver are so poorly isolated from one another that when you reach your hand near it to tune it, a regen will change frequency. You take your hand away and they shift again. If the antenna swings in the wind, they also change frequency.

And in a regen, the oscillator even transmitted a QRP signal OUT the antenna -- My father used to say that the hams of the 1930s would tune across the band and when they heard a tiny carrier, they knew some guy with a regenerative was listening on that frequency. They'd just plug in a crystal near that frequency and call "CQ."

I wish I still had that S40A -- we'd repainted it with bright green paint (I'd just done my stingray bike in that color) - very 60's! Whoa! That's enough to give a Hallicrafters collector a heart attack! 73, Alan N5LF

### WebPage Statistics

These are the number of "hits" our page had in Oct.

Oct 4-10: 645

Oct 11-17: 568

Oct 18-24: 602

Oct 25-31: 649

### Thought Provoker Thoughts

I knew when I printed Charles AB0HQ's "Thought Provoker" in the last issue that we would hear about! I'm printing two of the opposite points of view I received. First is from Woodrow, AC5QO:

"Why on earth would a club whose motto is "Courtesy at All Times" print the filthy, blasphemous anti white male rambling of Charles Parmenter? You say "printing does not mean endorsed", but would you have printed it if it were anti Jew, black, female, etc.? Of course you would not.

If one wants this kind of attacks on things white and/or Christian, he can just turn on the TV, radio or pick up almost any newspaper or periodical.

So am waiting for either an apology or to see some slurs on the above mentioned groups. (but not holding my breath). PS: not a member of any group or org and do only CW, Courteously yours, Woodrow Carter, Jr AC5QO (southern white man).

The other end of the spectrum comes from John W9ISC: "Kudos Kudos Kudos on your "Thought Provokers". If you are starting up a "Heretic" group, please sign me up.

1. I agree completely that the amateur radio community takes itself WAY too seriously.

2. I am saddened at the attitudes I see voiced so often that amateur communities (CW folks, for instance) are expected to hold other amateur communities (SSB folks, for instance) in low regard. After having been a "CW hater" for many years, I am now thoroughly enjoying it. I attribute that to the fact that I never worked at CW hard enough to get to the point where copying code was fun and not HARD mental work. That does NOT mean that I have abandoned RTTY. That does NOT mean that I cannot play with SSB, 2MFM, SSTV..... if and when I want to. This "us versus them" attitude is NOT NOT NOT helpful.

3. I worked that French transvestite alien on RTTY ....whoops -- right -- that's another story.

I appreciate the thought that went into your "Provokers". de John W9ISC FISTS 3340

I thought this would be of interest to the FISTS members who enjoy QRP. The QRP-L is an Email group, but I think any QRP ops are welcome to join in the Foxhunts. Write to Paul W8KC if you have any questions.

**1998-1999 QRP-L FOXHUNT! From Paul W8KC, #3973 Version 3.01**

## **EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW**

The Fox and Hound make a two-way QRP contact exchanging calls, RST, QTH, Name, QRP-L Number and/or RF output power.

## **DEFINITIONS**

QRP = 5 watts or less RF output from the transmitter.

QRO = any power greater than 5 watts.

QTH = State, Province, or Country if outside US/Can.

Fox = the station everyone tries to work. Also known as foxii, the fox, the wily one, the bushy tailed SOB, etc.

Hound = any station trying to work the fox. Also known as the hound, hunter, hunters, the skunked, the pile-up.

W8KC = Paul Valko, runs the foxhunt. Also known as, =paul=, The collector of TenTecs and other fine plastics, Rule Maker, Rule Definer, Peace Keeper, Butt Kicker, etc.

Split = Classic DX-style operation on two distinctly different frequencies.

## **RULES**

1.0 **OBJECTIVE** - The objective is to HAVE FUN.

### **1.1 GENERAL FOX GUIDELINES**

1.12 Fox try to complete as many two-way, CW, QRP, QSOs - as possible, in a 2 hour long time period.

1.13 Fox must post PRIOR to operation day with details (rig, ant, freq) regarding their operation.

1.14 Fox will operate within +/- 10Khz of 7.040 MHz but should make an effort to AVOID operating directly on 7.040.

1.141 Fox will call CQ FOX, CQ FOXHUNT, etc.

1.15 Fox will be allowed to QSY to avoid QRM.

1.16 Fox WILL NOT operate "split.."

### **1.2 GENERAL HOUND GUIDELINES**

1.21 Hounds ONLY work the Fox.

1.211 Hounds ONLY ANSWER the FOX CQ - Hounds DO NOT call CQ FOX.

1.22 Hounds must NOT QRM the Fox Frequency after the QSO.

1.23 Hounds, work as many Foxii as possible over the 22 weeks of the Foxhunt.

1.3 Hound MUST be QRP if giving a qrp-l number.

### **2.0 SCORING SYSTEM**

2.1 One point will be awarded for each successful QSO.

2.31 Instructions to get your QRP-L Number are at the bottom of this message.

2.4 Maximum points for any one QSO is 3 points, allows incentive for Novice/Tech or Special Event Foxii.

### **2.5 EXCHANGE**

2.51 A successful QSO MUST exchange as a minimum Callsigns, RST, QTH, Name, QRP-L number and/or RF output power.

2.52 Any other information exchanged (rigs, ant, etc.) is at the operator's discretion but is superfluous.

2.521 Operators are welcome to include superfluous detail in the posted report but the FOX LOG must be posted as detailed in rule 3.2.

### **3.0 REPORTING SYSTEM**

3.1 Foxii LOGS MUST be posted to QRP-L with a copy also sent to: prvalko@oakland.edu

3.11 Posts to QRP-L Regarding the Foxhunt should begin with "FOX:" to enable filters to do their magic.

3.2 The Foxii log shall have the following layout:

TIME	STATION	FOX	HOUND	HOUND	HOUND	HOUND	HOUND	
GMT	WORKED	RST	RST	QTH	NAME	QRP-L#	POWER	as an example...
0200	w8kc	559	559	mi	Paul	59	2w	
0201	wq9rp	579	579	wi	Hank		.9w	
0202	n8iin	599	559	mi	Roy		100w	TOTAL 3 POINTS

3.3 The Fox is responsible and is to be honorable in reporting scores.

3.31 All info exchanged must be done during the QSO, electronic "fills" via email are not permitted.

3.4 Hounds are encouraged to report both successful AND failed hunts to QRP-L (I do not need a Hound Log). This is also a propagation study, you know.

### **4.0 SPECIAL FOX EVENTS**

4.1 A Special Event Fox may pop up once or twice to keep hunters on their toes. Stay tuned to QRP-L for these announce-



ments.

- 4.2 A Novice Foxhunt will begin sometime in November.
- 4.5 There is a "Bye Date" where no fox is scheduled.
- 4.6 No Foxhunt is planned during Straight Key Night.
- 4.7 Any "sub-contest" such as "team competition" is the sole responsibility of the person who decides to run one.
- 4.71 Sub-contests must in no way interfere with the rules and smooth operation of the AUTHORIZED QRP-L FOXHUNT.

### 1998/1999 FOX SCHEDULE VERSION 1.00

GMT	FOX	FOX	START	GMT		FOX	FOX	START	
WEEK	DATE	OP	QTH	TIME(Z)		DATE	OP	QTH	TIME(Z)
10	12/11	N2TO	NY	0200					
11	12/16	K5ZTY	TX	0200	12/18	N2SMH	NJ	0100	
12	12/23	WQ8RP	MI	0100	12/25	KB7MBI	WA	0200	
13	12/30	VE7DXJ	BC	0200	1/1/99	*** SKN ***			
14	1/6	** BYE DATE **			1/8	VE7DXJ	BC	0300	
15	1/13	K0EVZ	ND	0200	1/15	N7CQR	OR	0300	
16	1/20	N2SMH	NJ	0100	1/22	W8RU	MI	0200	
17	1/27	N0UR	MN	0100	1/29	WS4S	TN	0300	
18	2/3	W5TFB	TX	0200	2/5	K1MG	CA	0100	
19	2/10	KV2X	NY	0200	2/12	AB0GO	CO	0200	
20	2/17	K0EVZ	ND	0200	2/19	VE7CQK	BC	0100	
21	2/24	KU7Y	NV	0100	2/26	N1FN	CO	0300	
22	3/3	VE7CQK	BC	0100	3/5	K5ZTY	TX	0200	

### FOX EMAIL ADDRESSES

Dave Ek <ekdave@earthlink.net>, Clifton W Sikes <ab5uacw@juno.com>, "Wilford D. Lindsey" <70511.3041@compuserve.com>, "Michael A. Gipe" <mgipe@reliablemeters.com>, k5zty@juno.com, Walt Amos <waltk8cv@ameritech.net>, Hank Kohl K8DD <k8dd@contesting.com>, ARDUJENSKI@aol.com, Monte Stark <ku7y@dri.edu>, Thomas Jennings <jennings@eng14.rochny.uspra.abb.com>, Lageson's <LAGESON@worldnet.att.net>, Marshall Emm <mgemm@mtechnologies.com>, David Maliniak <dmaliniak@penton.com>, "Kevin F. Glynn" <kfglynn@prodigy.net>, Dan Presley <talljazz@teleport.com>, Paul Erickson <paule@sfu.ca>, "C. Leung" <cleung@cln.etc.bc.ca>, Jack Bryant <Jack.Bryant@math.tamu.edu>, Ron Majewski <majewski@erim-int.com>, JFD / WA8GHZ /5 <jdougher@wt.net>, Conard Murray <ws4s@infoave.net>

### OBTAINING A QRP-L MEMBER NUMBER

Use this command to obtain a QRP-L member number.

RUN QRP-L X GETNR callsign

example: RUN QRP-L X GETNR W8KC

where "callsign" is your callsign. Send this in the body of a message to [LISTSERV@LEHIGH.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LEHIGH.EDU). Use the word NONE if you don't yet have a callsign. The list of assigned member numbers can be had via the command, also to [LISTSERV@LEHIGH.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LEHIGH.EDU):

GET QRP-L/MISC MEMBER\_NUMBERS.TXT

That's it for now gang! Unleash the hounds!!!

73! =paul= W8KC

Collector of Ten\*Tecs and other fine plastics

<<http://www.acs.oakland.edu/~prvalko>>

# DX KEYNOTE

By Geo Longden, G3ZQS, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen  
Lancs, England BB3 2LZ

## GREETINGS

Hello people. I prepare this letter in an atmosphere of comparative calm since Ivy is languishing in an old manor house complete with carved oak panelling as a couple of week respite care for yours truly. Thoughts of a weeks casual rambling among the delights of Eire are shelved because of the inappropriate timing. However, I have managed to spend quite a bit of time on the air so the opportunity has not been wasted. Hi.

During the SK week, the upper reaches of the 80 and 40m cw allocation were alive with CQ FISTS and CQ SKW and although there were the inevitable rusted up joints in evidence, there was some really beautiful hand sent code which I am sure will have offered encouragement to many would be Morse enthusiasts. It was fortuitous that both these bands were in excellent condition for the bulk of the week which is more than I can say for the HF bands. Oh there were signal there alright but apart from mid range countries, most were bobbing up and down in QSB like a cork in the sea. The latter end of September has brought us the kind of weather we were hoping for earlier in the summer. Almost as if the season was just calling in to say goodbye.

I hope that by the time you are reading this, our own HQ web site will be up and running. This is being organised by Andy, G0JLX who has some 10 to 15mb at his disposal and for the curious he will be posting the Keynote for downloading from <http://www.olivenet.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/>. Thankyou Andy, we have needed this for some time now.

## CALLING ROUTINE

I hate to criticise but a very small number of members, hearing me CQ, respond with long opening period 'GX0IPX de G0??? Hi Geo = 599 and hope everything is OK there' etc. Frequently enough no harm is done but there have been occasions when a weaker station has also responded in the normal way and has been more or less pushed to one side with this practice. I appreciate that this is not done in anything other

than a friendly manner but please, *ensure that the contact is established* before entering into a QSO proper.

## CLUB QSL CARDS

It has taken me quite a while to get round to this - something which I first attempted to undertake when we purchased the colour inkjet printer, but many members will by now have received a colour on white version. I would like to make these available to our members but must point out that it is a relatively expensive process. I have not yet worked out just how many cards may be printed with one colour ink pack but it will not be all that many. I am still waiting for the stock so that I can charge the printer with a new ink pack and run until the refill is exhausted which will give me an idea of the total cost and therefore a fair quote for colour QSL cards. For those who have not seen it, I have caused a blue/green world globe to be placed central on the cards and this is overprinted with the stylised straight key which you have all seen. This in turn is overprinted with the club logo with a pale blue background and black bars and characters. The rest of the card is printed as usual on the laser printer. The inkjet in colour mode has a very slow delivery as you may imagine and printing the necessary 50 sheets of A4 stock for a batch of 200 cards will probably take between 20 and 30 minutes and will need to be monitored so you can see that it is no easy or even automatic way of doing things. I should be able to give you an idea of the cost next month but it will likely be between £10 and £12 per batch of 200 cards. The original red on canary stock is of course still available and the prices remain at £8.00 per 200 or £5.00 per 100. Having the stock printed commercially would inflate the cost of the cards I fear (but I will look into this) since it demands a 4 unit press, three delivering RGB colour and the fourth black.

## RF AND THE PHONE

Further to last months happening when the Fax machine finally blew its top, I have purchased another phone (not a Fax since this was rarely used and in-

deed had begun to produce dirty copy) but - very convenient - a hands-free type which is independent of the mains supply being battery powered and a handy row of 20 memories. This has not stripped me of FAX facilities since I have for some time been using the computer and modem to do this job. I took a single ferrite ring and wound the incoming BT cable through it doughnut fashion and it must be doing something because I can answer calls whilst actually transmitting on 40m with no ill effects at all. There is always the possibility that the RF was getting into the old one via the mains cable of course but since I can run a small TV receiver within 18 inches of the rig without a blemish on the picture I think that the BT line, being routed directly below the operating bench, was the culprit. Good idea to have a few of these torroids in stock!

### THE SK WEEK

Well my goodness. Had a quick word with Gerry, GM4BAE, and he was bubbling with excitement at the number of logs which had been submitted. No chance of getting the results in to this letter since there are still a few days to go before the deadline for logs but suffice it to say that the take up was very encouraging indeed. At the present moment it seems we will not be able to find a FIST of the year because of the many nominations made, no single nomination is duplicated. The SKW activity has been reflected in Bolton where Bob (G0FRL) reports an absolute deluge of incoming QSL cards.

### 30M ACTIVITY

10.1 MHz continues to provide some super activity. Not only during daylight hours but also into late evening and, as has been noted via G3HZL, early morning yields some very reliable DX conditions. Whenever the rig is activated, even if 20 or 15m is open, 10.1258 is always checked just in case but the band rarely offers much in the way of G to G although during daylight, it offers a good spread throughout Europe. I have heard (but not worked) Malta, Singapore and Australia and witnessed a number of dx-peditions showing up on the band producing real healthy pile ups. Little is heard on the other WARC bands in the present season though 18MHz uncovers some North and South American amongst the Europeans. Despite our 'shrinking ionosphere' it could be we will be in for a very nice Autumn in terms of propagation.

### AWARDS

We are taking a lot of stick here and rather unfairly since claim sheets are arriving in such a way as to leave us guessing exactly which award is being claimed. Please ensure that your claim leaves no doubt as to the award you are claiming and just as importantly, who is the claimant. It has not happened yet but the way we are going, I am expecting any time to find a claim form without any means of identification. To save us having to fan through umpteen sheets of data with a magnifying lens, Make your callsign prominent.

Despite being clearly outlined, Bob is still receiving requests for supplementary Century awards. If we had continued the practice of issuing these then Bob would be spending the greater part of his day issuing Century N° 2 or Century N°3 etc. Except in the case of QRP or Mobile, ONLY ONE Century is issued. The next award up the ladder is Gold which requires 500 points so the value of your Century (100 points) together with an additional 400 points is required.

### NEW MEMBERS

4877	SV1CDP	Steve	4878	M0BTV	Pat
4879	PA0UE	Wim	4880	M0BMT	Dave
4881	M0AWW	Bill	4882	G4AJA	Chris
4883	MW0ATG	Howell	4884	M0BTY	Peter
4885	G0SCP	Tom	4886	G4RWK	Mike
4887	G3BLS	Dave	4888	GI4IKF	Tom
4889	ON6JZ	Leon	4890	HB9JNV	Hermann
4891	G0JNP	Niall	4892	GW3ZCF	Robin
4893	GI3TLT	Hugh	4894	EI8CN	Pat
4895	G0VUO	Peter	4896	GW4BVJ	Rich
4897	M0ABY	Adrian	4898	G2FXS	John
4899	G4ENQ	Fred	9007	VK2EBP	John
9008	ZL1AN	Gary	9009	ZL1BIQ	Keith

You will note the jump from the 4800 series to 9000 since this particular block has been allocated to Ralph, ZL2AOH for the ZL/VK chapter. Nancy is already into the 5400 series so the EU members will be from 5500 now that the last number has been allocated. I should also point out that ZL1AN (Gary) is editor of the 'Morseman' articles in the NZART magazine. The full listing is now beginning to walk through 13 pages of A4 stock so, members requiring printed listings are requested to note the reference immediately below the banner. I do get the odd request with nothing more than a return stamp but I am sure this due to the members concerned not having noted the above reference.

## THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

Shame on you all. **M0BOS**, Len when finding 10m open has called on 28058 and thus far absolutely no takers. Keep an eye on 10m pse people. **G0FDJ**. Keith will be spending some time up in the wilds of Skye with IOTA EU008. A TH3Jr up at 30' plus a full size G5RV should produce some goodies. Query, does any member run a horizontal LW cum delta loop fed at the centre of one side? This is the configuration of his LW at Canvey Island. At the time of writing was playing with 450 ohm open feeder with a safety net of 75 ohm ribbon if it doesn't work out. I did mention that Vlad, UA6JD had been refused a visa by the British Embassy in Moscow. The ways of these officials are strange indeed. If Vlad would like to sked at 1930z Saturdays till Christmas on 14050 and on 17 Oct on 14.250. Mayhap some support from club members would be appreciated? **GM3HEN**. I quite agree Tony. Nice thought about speech v Morse. Speech is truly older of course but I think the argument used was of redundancy rather than period of use and as far as packeting SSB is concerned, was there not some movement towards this some time ago... say what you have to say, store it as a WAV file, compress it and stuff it out in high speed data bursts? **LA3BX**. Grandson offloaded a 286 PC with a 40Mb hard drive onto Ted. Boy that's a real museum piece... almost in the same era as the Spectrum. Hi. Happily the logging prog is quite at home here because it was written when such machines were 'state of the art'. The HW8 with 2w doesn't exactly create pile-ups but as Ted notes, it is great for instilling discipline and indifferent code gets you nowhere with 339 reports. Hi. **GI4IKF**. Tom has recently joined our ranks and it transpires that he is an ex bootneck. Though not a wireless op, he recalls how they were very dependent upon Morse for food and ammunition when stuck out in the Malayan jungle. Some of the old kit occupies pride of place in his shack, 19 set (Mk II), 38 set (also Mk II) and the 88 set. Apart from his service with the Royal Marines, he was ex Sgt in the UDR with 17 years in the RUC as 'constable and whisky drinker'. **EI5FY**. A very mysterious communiqué from Bill who hints at a disc 'when I am better educated'. Has someone else fallen for the lure of the PC? **G4KLQ**. It's taken three years to finally get Eds' old knee seen to but now with another month of homebrew orthopaedics he will hopefully be throwing away his stix and taking up his key. Hi. ??? No names no pack drill but someone I know got the logging prog, sloped off on holiday and

got back to find he had forgotten where he had hidden it. Don't worry mate.. I do that sort of thing all the time. **M0AXJ**. Ooooh! Alan is the latest victim of my sticky fingers or perhaps it was my eyesight this time? The nominee for his Elmer was M0BOS and not M0BUS as I quoted. Mind you there's only two characters difference on the keyboard. The OM with dyslexia who was having such a problem with the code is now quite close to taking his test. It's been a two year struggle but he never moaned or made excuses and refused to even contemplate the easier option of the 5wpm novice test. Now in regular pen and ink mode with Knud (would that be OZ9WZ?) proof if any were needed that the club does just what I claimed and hatches friendships. **PA3BHH**. I have had only one previous QSO I think with Ton so it was a real pleasure to meet up with him again on the bands. Thank you Piet for the nudge.

## SOUTH FORELAND LIGHTHOUSE

Down at the South Foreland Lighthouse on the White Cliffs of Dover, they are getting ready for the festive season but they are not planning to decorate the place with tinsel, holly and mistletoe, they intend to use old batteries and wireless equipment. On Christmas eve, the lighthouse celebrates the centenary of its important but little known role in the history of radio. It was from this breathtaking spot high on Kents' famous White Cliffs on 24 Dec 1898 that the Marconi achieved the very first ship-to-shore wireless contact. The East Goodwins lightship, a dozen miles out to sea and marking one of the most dangerous stretches of the Channel, needed a reliable means of communication and South Foreland was perfect for this purpose.

George Kemp noted in his 1898 diary: 'Dec 24th. Mr Marconi called me up by wireless from South Foreland by ringing V's code on my bell and we went on working at good speed until 9pm, sending Compliments of the Season to all... I sent "three cheers" for Mr. Marconi.'

The above is extracted from the National Trust Magazine, Autumn 1998, a copy of which was kindly forwarded by Ron, impact of greenhouse gases on global warming. Dr Jarvis believes that the ionosphere's fall in altitude may have occurred because of the effects of green house gases. These could have made the temperature in the upper atmosphere drop caus-

ing the fall in pressure which has resulted in the shrinking ionosphere.

The indications of Dr Jarvis' research are that the ionosphere is not just sinking over the Antarctic. Similar research has been done recently in Germany and Finland, and these research results have shown a similar fall in the altitude of the ionosphere, the significance of our results is that they're done in a completely different part of the world, the fact that we see the same result tends to show that this is not a local effect but is in fact a global effect.

It will be sometime before the true significance of this research becomes apparent, but it seems clear that as long as we pump out green house gases, the ionosphere will continue to shrink and scientists will only be able to watch and monitor the fall. The above was downloaded for the tomorrow's world site of the BBC.

### **ODDS 'N ENDS NUMBER CHASING.**

I have not encountered the problem directly but I do get a number of complaints concerning members operating in an aggressive manner. Jack, G3WP, was one such and in no small degree miffed when his N. American contact responded with FISTS number and QRZ?. Can you imagine what this must sound like on the WARC bands? 30m especially is a sanctuary for the sane when there is a contest running and if such overzealous number hunting were to become widespread, we would rapidly gain the reputation of running contests on a band which has so far remained un-sullied. Whilst we do not wish to deprive members of the opportunity of working their Century etc. on 30m, please keep number exchanges brief and at least offer a few friendly words before closing. Nancy has her finger on the pulse here I understand and in addition to a /M award has instituted a 'Rag Chewers Award'. I know little of details here but gather that QSOs of 30 minutes are a yardstick.

### **THE HARD LIFE**

We all have our cross to bear and I find it easy to relate to Bill, G0USW who reported during a QSO that his wife was in hospital with Crohns disease. Sincerely trust her health will be restored.

### **SKEDS**

Got a note addressed to GW4KUS, GW0PPG,

GWJ4JGW, G0FVS, G0VCY, GW0UHH, and GW0NLB suggesting that we operate very casual skeds any evening on 3.676 FROM 1915 - 2000 LOCAL preparatory to a QSY to 10.128 which up to now I have not been able to act upon. They also request QRS where appropriate.

### **NEWS... THE BAD AND THE GOOD**

It was on day two of the SKW that I learned of the hospitalisation of Clarry, G0JXS, with a stroke. On Wednesday I called his home telephone number to enquire of his condition and was delighted when it was Clarry himself who answered the call. Seems it had only been a minor affair with no damage but do remember that Clarry has been robbed of the use of his keying hand from a previous stroke.

Directly involved as I am with the effects of a stroke (Ivy has lost the use of her right hand) I approached my GP pointing out that Ivys' dose of one 75mg aspirin per day to maintain a safe blood viscosity would perhaps help save me from falling into the same pit. He agreed so now, despite what almost amounted to paranoia there is a feeling of security.

I must tell you that I once had a good friend who live on the Isle of Man and after suffering the same damage, started to teach his left hand to use the paddles. In a surprisingly short time, you would never have guessed his condition though of course the pump handle was out of the question.

### **THE LOGGING PROG**

My thanks to Bill, GW0SGG who has kindly volunteered to take some weight off my shoulders by distributing this for me. He will periodically receive updates of the QSO file from me. This is the king pin of the system and as distributed comprises all current FISTS members so you kill two birds with one stone here.... the logging prog and an updated list. Hi. Bill's address: Mr. W. Holt. 14 Heather Crescent, SKETTY, SA2 8HE.

### **SUBS ETC.**

Not many guilty here but a few members are not quite getting it right. I handle subs, orders for labels or QSL cards, listings both hard copy and disc based and other general enquiries. Again, you are recognised by your CALLSIGN primarily. Neglecting to add this to any correspondence usually means abandoning an

on-going process in order to do a search which in turn can lead to me making a kokup somewhere. Hi. Please remember this **very** important identification. Bank notes (other than UK) which arrive at this end are usually dumped into a convenient glass tumbler and I pay this into the club funds via my own bank account. Comes in handy sometimes because I usually end up with enough US dollars to keep me in essentials like toothpaste and beer when I go to the States. Others however are not so convenient. I can exchange it at the local Bureau de Change but often enough, I have a number of small values in a variety of currencies each of which represent separate transactions so unless there is some built in excess, I tend to lose out on the conversion.

### UFT NEWS

From F5NQL, updated info from Union Francaise Telegraphistes.

Officers, year from 01 Aug, 1998:

Chairman F5JDB

Vice Chairman F5NQL

Sec F6DTU

Treasurer YL Jaqueline (REF member)

EUCW Coordinator F6ENO

Awards F6DTU

Special Event and CW Contest sponsored 1998 will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the first two way Transatlantic CW QSO (W1MO and F8AB) on 28 Nov 1923 with contacts between EU and USA/Canada.

Date 28 Nov to 05 Dec 1998 on 160m 80m or both bands. Those opting for both bands must provide ;proof of at least 2 QSOs per band.

Each QSO is worth 1 point except for those made 28 Nov which are valued at 2 points and QSOs made during the WWDX contest count.

Logs to F5NQL, 7 Rue de Bourgogne, F89470 Monetau before 15 January 1999 detailing date, time, Call with a summary sheet showing name, address, points claimed, SWL and Category.

Computerised logs accepted per LOG-EQF, ASCII and K1EA.

Also, Society contest (last weekend before Christmas) and 160m Contest (2nd weekend of Jan 1999). IRC for info to Maurice at above address.

### INFO REQUIRED

From Daniel, GM0DJI. I need the instruction manual for a scanner SX200 vhf26-88 108-180 uhf380-514 maker Nissan Denshi Co. Ltd. Maybe someone will be able to help me. I shall pay all costs of photocopying postage etc.

### SHRINKING IONOSPHERE

Scientists at the British Antarctic Survey were the first to reveal the hole in the ozone layer. Now they've got more disturbing news.

For the last 38 years, in the icy deserts of the Southern hemisphere, the British Antarctic Survey has been measuring the ionosphere, the upper layer of the atmosphere which starts at 100 km above our heads and stretches for 600km. The ionosphere protects the earth from some of the sun's most harmful rays and is used to **bounce radio waves around the world**. What the scientists have discovered is that it's sinking towards the earth.

Dr Martin Jarvis, is the physicist whose research has revealed the worrying news "The 38 year sequences of data that we have looked at show that the altitude of the ionosphere has slowly decreased by about 0.2 kms a year so that over the total 38 years it has fallen by 8 kms."

### BUTTER FINGERS

Oh how embarrassing! I was recently refining a dBase routine used for deletions and restorations and made a small error. The result was that the whole database was stripped and, to add insult to injury, the programme went on to do exactly the same thing to my backup copies. Similarly the change of address to a member who has moved to "Albion ???" (at least I remembered that bit) was also irretrievably lost in the process. With abject apologies, would the member concerned please update me AGAIN. News letter to old address trusting it will be forwarded. Now it seems I have been addressing Derek's (G0IZW) mail to an address in BRAINTYREE for some time now. The post code makes this part of the address redundant of course but if I am go make a kok-up of this nature, perhaps BRAINYTREE would have been a more fortuitous typo. Hi. The damage was minimal because Bob's copy of course was available and only about one week out of date but the latter change of address was not in hard copy and thus was not updateable. These days I am real pedantic when it comes to keep-



ing up the books/database but the odd bloomer does occur.

### **FINALE**

I almost ran out of space again people. My thanks to all who took part in the SKW and yes there will be a Winter SKW again in February. 73/88, have fun and stay sober

de Geo.

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FISTS CLUB DOWN UNDER Local News – November 1998 12c Herbert Gardens, 186

The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand Fax 0-4-473-0848 e-mail: sir\_lancelot@compuserve.com

The November "Key Note" will be delayed until mid November because of technical problems at this end. So I am sending this separately. "Key Note" will be sent out as soon as it is ready.

You will note that there was no "Fists Down Under" dated October 1998. I have decided to label these newsletters the same as for "Key Note" to avoid confusion.

There won't be a "Key Note" in December so our next issue of "Fists Down Under" will be in January 1999.

### **New Member**

Welcome to ZL1ATW-Matt Meenagh-9010 of Te Awamutu. Matt says he learned Morse pre war when attached to the Indian Army. He is happy to encourage young operators to learn Morse.

### **Editor's Activities**

The major activity during the past month was participating in the VK/ZL/Oceania CW contest from the Wellington Amateur radio Club station at Quartz Hill. We ran one rig with three operators 1 shifts. We did not achieve as many points as last year when we were running two rigs. Our haul was 1217 QSOs, 722 prefixes and 3,178,966 points. We will now have to wait patiently to see how well we did..

Working from home I have found conditions much more pleasant and it is getting to be like old times with mini pile ups at times.

I am spending the first two weeks of November at Ohakune where I'll be putting the top wire of an electric fence to good use – it performs very well on most bands. Listen out if you are a county hunter wanting Waimarino.

### **Correspondence**

The following was received from **K4UK-Stan-2934** who operates the FISTS QSL bureau in North America.

I had a great time in the Pennsylvania QSO Party last weekend from Carbon county PA. Made 557 QSO's. I was operating from Beltzville Airport - a private airstrip - dedicated mostly to gliders and radio-controlled models (both power and glider). Located on top of one of the mountains in the Poconos.

The owner of the airport loaned us his RV - so my set-up was first class. Threw a 80/40 meter dipole up into the trees. Also used that antenna on 20 Meters, though I don't know how the antenna tuner fooled the Ten-Tec OMNI 6 into thinking it was a good 20 Meter antenna - Hi! Also used the mobile antenna for 15 & 10 Meters.

Was gone for 9 "mail days" and had a box full of envelopes when we returned. We had a "Grand Opening" of envelopes at the Club meeting on Monday when I returned. We sorted 1736 QSL cards at the meeting!

Glad to hear of your good weather. We had a beautiful drive from Ohio into Eastern PA. The trees were in brilliant colour

From **ZL2BIL-Bill-9003** up on the Kapiti coast - (I hope you survived the flooding, Bill)

Hi Ralph, ..... here's some bits for the newsletter:

FISTS members worked: Fred K6FFF, Bill K8NFT, Joe N3PM, Vlad UA6JD, Roy W4ZCR, Glenn W7GS.

Others: A35ZL, AH7H, FB1DX, JA2BMK, K0RDW, VK5FOX, XW1RGL.

Little radio work done over the past couple of weeks as I'm trying to up my CW speed from the current +- 15 wpm to at least 20wpm...tough sledding so far! I'm using DMORSE which I downloaded from the net, but it appears to have its own idea about the speed it uses when outputting CW. Seems to vary from 25 to about 35 wpm at times. Constantly surprised by my low antennas and the DX they pull in. S reports are never strong, but nevertheless, they are there in the log.

**TK3DX-Villi-1658** wrote from Reykjavik, Iceland asking me to try to work him during the VK/ZL contest. I was not working at Quartz Hill at the suggested sked times. Both my 100 Watt rigs were being used at QH so I called him using my TS-120V at about 9 Watts. Read on....

Mni tnx. Hrd u call me decent sigs 06:35 on Sunday. Was in QSO wid Eddie ZL1TG, but put him immediately on QRX es got back to you those 3 - 4 times you called, but you did not hear.

Then Mike, ZL1MH grabbed me, 559 like Eddie, ur sigs at least 549. Might hve bn QRN/QRM ur end.

At this time of day, I work any ZL easily now unless condx are unsettled. The day before I wrkd ham couple ZL1JP Carolyn and ZL1ME Dennis 07:15 - 07:45. I asked them to come next day same time es frq for contest QSO. It sure wrkd perfect, 559 both ways. They run low pwr es wire frm New Plymouth es sound like newcomers to HF CW.

Only old friends and skeds came on, there seems to be no ZL listening randomly at this hour, contest or no contest hi! Those with beams might also be beaming the wrong way, not much coming SP to ZL at this hour except a lone TF hi!

VK was difficult, LP not getting through at all, although I hrd EU wrkng them. What I got was SP later in my mrrng, but I had to look for them and mostly fight long through the QRM. They did not seem to hear my CQs.

In general I work the small pistols much more easily in this contest than the big guns. They attract pile-ups that are difficult to break from up here in the aurora zone, and they tend to be on bands, paths and times that give the best QSO rate, which is generally out of tune with cndx to TF.

ZL6QH is a good example. They kept a vy low profile here. I only heard them twice. On 7 MHz after the beginning on Saturday, but rather weak, 10 - 11 Z is late for ZL here, especially on 40 m. Tried for a good while to break through the pile-up without results, guess they were beaming for USA.

I never found them again, any band, until on 14.005 MHz shortly before the end of the contest on Sunday. Again late for best TF conditions, but 20 m sometimes hold out.

So I decided to fight the EU QRM as best I could. Luckily I soon discovered a habit of the operator, he liked to take turns listening above his frq and slightly below. After 17 mins of trying to anticipate his move, I finally got him at the lower frequency while most of the pile-up was still screaming higher up! That made me very happy! I sent them 5NN, while the true RST was 539, all other RSTs I gave were genuine, but I did not want to risk any problems with copy, because the QRM was getting us.

I am sure we would have worked both 40 m and 15 m with strategy. Other big guns I hrd but could never work were VK4EMM and VK2APK. No TF multiplier for them hi!

I made 16 QSOs, a certain sign of climbing sun-spots! My results over the years have been with similar effort:

1991	29 QSOs	1992	19	1993	2	1994	0 (same effort!)
1995	5	1996	2	1997	2	1998	16

**W4BX-Frank-4049** wrote on a QSL card that he is a railroad engineer. The card featured a colour photograph of his locomotive. He says he mostly works CW from home but works phone HF when on the train, and railroad mobile on 2 metres and 70 cm. The HF transceiver in the cab is a TenTec Scout which he adjudges a great mobile rig.

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THE ORIGINAL HAS A COPY OF FRANK'S QSL CARD HERE BUT I HAVE REMOVED IT FOR E-MAIL TRANSMISSION AS IT BLEW THE FILE UP TO 11 MEGABYTES!

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Your contributions to the newsletter are eagerly sought. Members indicate that they enjoy the personal aspect of the newsletter, though technical articles are also welcome. From time to time I receive interesting items through e-mail which I pass on to members who have given me their e-mail addresses. So if you haven't already done so, please let me know your e-mail address so that you can be included in the distribution.

### Seasonal Greetings

This being the last newsletter of the year I would like to wish all our members, their families and friends a very merry Christmas and a new year of happiness, health and prosperity.



73 de ZL2AOH -Ralph-1073

FIST CW CLUB, P.O.Box 47  
Hadley, MI 48440-0047

*Have you checked your mailing label lately??*

Your renewal due date is on the upper right  
corner of the mailing label.

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**WALD** WORLD  
BY ARNIE MACY KT4ST

